



NOAA NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE



October 2010

What is a NOAA Weather Radio All Hazards?

NOAA Weather Radio All Hazards is a round-the-clock source of weather information and other timely hazard information. The NOAA Weather Radio system consists of NOAA National Weather Service Weather Forecast Offices (where the broadcasts originate), a transmission site (station) with an antenna tower, and a NOAA Weather Radio receiver. In some areas the broadcast may also be available in Spanish.

How is a NOAA Weather Radio used?

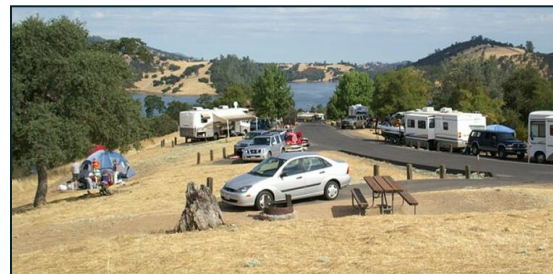
For Your Home: Protect your family from life-threatening weather and other hazardous events even if you are not listening to the radio or watching television and *EVEN WHEN YOU ARE ASLEEP.*



For Schools, Hospitals, Nursing Homes, Factories, Businesses, and Public Gathering Places: Be notified of severe weather warnings the moment they are issued. No need for phone calls or multi-step communication links, NOAA weather radio is also a great source for current weather conditions when planning outdoor activities.

For Traveling

Over 90% of the U.S. is served by NOAA Weather Radio. Because many Weather Radios are battery operated and portable you may be warned of severe weather year round, wherever you may are.



Is NOAA Weather Radio All Hazards available in my area?

NOAA Weather Radio broadcasts can generally be heard within 40 miles of the nearest station/transmitter. Many things affect the reception of the broadcast signal. Large bodies of salt water may increase the broadcast range, while forested areas, deserts, and mountains have a tendency to reduce the effective range. Interfering buildings may reduce reception in large cities, while higher locations may enhance reception. You can determine the NOAA Weather Radio broadcast coverage by checking the station listings and coverage areas on the NOAA Weather Radio website at www.weather.gov/new/nwrbr.htm.



About NOAA Weather Radios

NOAA Weather Radio All-Hazards receivers typically cost \$30-\$70 and are available online and at many electronics retailers, discount stores, and even some grocery stores.

What is Specific Area Message Encoding (SAME)?

SAME allows you to receive alerts for the areas you choose. SAME codes are available by telephone at 1-888-NWR-SAME (888-697-7263) or on the internet at www.weather.gov/nwr/indexnw.htm.

NOAA Weather Radio is Your Indoor "Smoke Detector" for Severe Weather

What is “All Hazards” Messaging?

In addition to weather conditions, advisories, watches and warnings, NOAA Weather Radio broadcasts may include non-weather related hazards/emergency information. Your local Weather Forecast Office may receive an alert message directly from a local or state government official or emergency management agency representative, and then interrupt the NOAA Weather Radio broadcast using an alert tone and Specific Area Message Encoding (SAME) codes.

Examples of potential non-weather events include:

- Toxic chemical incidents
- Nuclear power plant accidents
- Forest or brush fires that threaten your community
- Amber Alerts
- Local, state, and/or national alerts as deemed appropriated by emergency authorities
- Post-event information in certain situations



Weather and Warnings for People With Hearing Disabilities

People who are deaf or hard of hearing can be alerted to severe weather and other hazards by connecting a special device to their NOAA Weather Radio receiver. These attention-getting devices may include strobe lights, pillow shakers, and even sirens. When activated, these devices alert the user to go to their normal source of news and/or information for further details. Some NOAA Weather Radio receiver models provide a limited caption-like front message display (TORNADO WARNING, FLASH FLOOD WARNING, etc).

Things to Listen For:

	Watches	Warnings
Severe Thunderstorm	"Severe thunderstorms are possible in your area."	"A severe thunderstorm is imminent or has been indicated by Doppler radar or reported by storm spotters."
Tornado	"Tornadoes are possible in your area. Remain alert for approaching storms."	"A tornado is imminent or has been indicated by Doppler radar or reported by storm spotters. Move to your pre-designated place of safety immediately!"
Flash Flood or Flood	"Flash flooding is possible in your area."	"Flash floods are occurring or imminent. Take necessary precautions immediately."
Winter Storm	"Hazardous winter weather conditions, such as heavy snow and/or ice are possible in your area."	"Hazardous winter weather conditions are forecast to occur within 12 hours or are about to begin in your area. Stay indoors."
Hurricane or Typhoon	"Hurricane conditions are possible in the specified area of the watch, usually within 36 hours."	"Hurricane conditions are expected in the specified area of the warning, usually within 24 hours. Complete storm precautions and evacuate if directed by officials."
Other Hazards or Emergencies		"The (official agency) has reported a (hazard event) affecting the following areas: (a list/location follows)."

On the web:

National Weather Service Quad Cities www.weather.gov/quadcities
 Weather Radio FAQ's www.weather.gov/nwr/faq.htm
 National Weather Service www.weather.gov
 Red Cross Preparedness www.redcross.org
 FEMA www.fema.gov